



The Town of Centreville
Centreville Town Council
101 Lawyers Row
Centreville, MD 21617

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Royden N. Powell, III
Town Manager
410-758-1180**

Town of Centreville to host tour of Wastewater Spray Field Operations

April 30, 2005 – The Town of Centreville is planning a tour of its wastewater disposal spray fields on May 31, 2005. The tour is designed to provide information to the Queen Anne's County Commissioners about the spray operation and will include presentations from technical and regulatory agencies involved with the farm.

Staff from the Queen Anne's Soil Conservation District (QASCD) and the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be on hand to describe the conservation planning and the implementation of various conservation practices on the property. Since the Town purchased the farm property in 1990, technical assistance for conservation has been provided through the Conservation District and NRCS.

A Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan was developed for the farm in 1991 and updated in January 2005, providing recommendations for conservation practices designed to reduce erosion and improve water quality. These plans assist land owners with the sound management of agricultural land and are designed to be adjusted as operations and conditions change over time. The original plan has been implemented including extensive grass buffers, rock lined channels and other practices designed to safely convey water off the farm. The revised plan developed in January includes recommendations to repair certain areas of erosion on the farm and the QASCD is currently preparing designs for the installation of the practices to address these areas. The areas currently eroding developed over the past winter and are not a result of spray operations.

The Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) will present information about the Groundwater Discharge Permit required for the spray field and the compliance assistance related to implementing the permit. The groundwater discharge permit regulates the application of treated effluent on the farm and is based on extensive analysis of the soils on the property and their ability to absorb the irrigated water. These calculations factor in the naturally occurring precipitation and permit guidelines restrict spraying in ponded or saturated conditions. The spray application rates are also based on water quality criteria of

the applied wastewater. Monitoring data from wastewater operations have demonstrated treatment efficiencies exceeding original design expectations.

MDE has continued to monitor the operation of Centreville's spray field since operations began in March. On site inspections conducted by the agency assure that no violations of the ground water discharge permit have occurred. MDE continues to work with the Town to assure that certain conditions encountered as part of start up of the operation are addressed. MDE has identified specific issues to be addressed including the elimination of certain areas prone to ponding and tracks created by the wheels of the irrigation system. While questions have been raised about wind conditions during spray operations, MDE requirements simply prevent operations which would allow spray drift to leave the property.

The Town of Centreville continues its commitment to environmental stewardship and water quality through sound management and leadership by the Town Council. The Council is fully committed to working cooperatively with County, State, and Federal agencies to address concerns related to the Town's facilities.

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